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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 08/987,005 | 12/08/1997 | MATHEW G. HOWELL | MICL:038 | 5721 |
| 7590 | 12/30/2003 | | EXAMINER | |
| COE F. MILES TROP, PRUNER, ET AL 8554 KATY FREEWAY STE. 100 HOUSTON, TX 77024 | | | TUGBANG, ANTHONY D | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3729 | |
| DATE MAILED: 12/30/2003 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 08/987,005 | HOWELL, MATHEW G. <i>CW</i> |
| Examiner | Art Unit | |
| A. Dexter Tugbang | 3729 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 22-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 22-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The applicant's amendment filed 10/17/03 (Paper No. 33) has been fully considered and made of record.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 22 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Caveney 3,890,459.

Caveney discloses a method comprising: mounting a tray (base 11) having an open groove (elongated region between parallel duct walls 13 and duct fingers 17) defined by a first longitudinal edge (left duct wall 13 in either Figs. 1 or 5) and a second longitudinal edge (right duct wall 13 in either Figs. 1 or 5); placing a cable 2 in the groove (example shown in Fig. 8); selectively routing the cable 2 through a notch (slot 19 over left duct wall 13) in the first longitudinal edge and a notch (slot 19 over the right duct wall 13) in the second longitudinal edge (see dashed lines of cable 2 in Fig. 1); and placing a cover 7 in proximity to the first and second longitudinal edges to close the groove and conceal the cable in the groove (see Fig. 1).

NOTE: The first edge (left duct wall 13) can be said to be "higher" than the second edge as illustrated by Caveney in the isometric view (of Fig. 1) or by rotating Figure 5 clockwise at a

small angle, say 10°, such that first edge (left duct wall 13) is slightly “higher” than the second edge (right duct wall 13).

Regarding Claim 24, Figure 1 of Caveney shows that the cover 7 is placed in direct contact with the first and second edges (duct walls 13 and fingers 17).

Regarding Claims 25-27, Caveney shows a plurality of notches (slots 19) in each of the first and second edges (duct walls 13 and fingers 17), each of the notches being uniformly or equally spaced with respect to each other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caveney in view of Claisse 5,086,195.

Caveney discloses substantially all of the limitations of the claimed method as relied upon above, except that the first and second edges are substantially orthogonal with respect to each other.

Claisse discloses a method of housing and supporting electrical cables (see col. 1, lines 15-22) with first and second longitudinal edges (flanges 13) that are substantially orthogonal with respect to each other through lip portions 15 (see Figs. 1 or 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the method of Caveney by forming the first and second edges substantially orthogonal with respect to each other, as taught by Claisse, to positively house and support electrical cables.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 22-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection set forth above.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

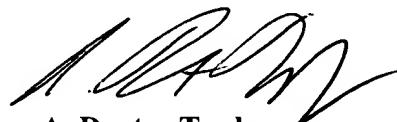
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 703-308-7599.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 703-308-1789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9302.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729

December 23, 2003